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Laura Dewire
Chief Steward CWA Local 1298
18 Arnold St
Norwich CT 06360

Good Morning, my name is Laura Dewire. First and foremost, let me start by thanking the members of the committee for hearing my concerns about this important bill, HB5740, An Act Concerning Ergonomics And Workplace Safety.

As a chief steward for CWA Local 1298 Union, I represent a group of employees who perform their job duties at a stationary pc for the majority of a 7 ½ hour day, 5 days out of the week. Our company recently installed new modems and keyboards at our workstations. Unfortunately, the new keyboards don't fit some of the existing workstations. The installers attempted to use folded up pieces of cardboard to make the keyboards fit but needless to say, it didn't work. Several of the representatives have their keyboards propped up with additional wrist rests and rubber bands. When management was asked about changing the tray tables to accommodate the larger sized keyboards, ^{response was} ~~they were told~~ the company didn't have the money to do. Without the ergonomic requirements that this bill would help impose, the company isn't required to replace any components to the desks. Many of my co-workers are already too familiar with the discomforts associated with carpal tunnel syndrome from the continuous typing position. It troubles me knowing that these workers have the possibility of medical issues arising not due to just the fact alone that our job requires us to type on position but due to the fact that the equipment provided by our employer to perform that job is insufficient ergonomically.

I would like to thank the committee for listening and for your consideration of this extremely important bill.

Regards,

Laura Dewire